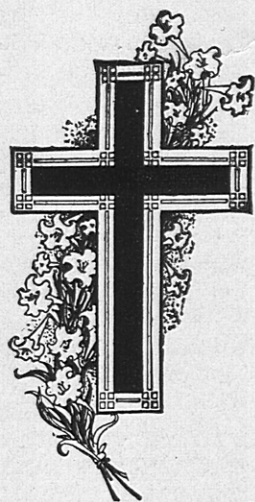


The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 1 - Number 7

APRIL, 1953



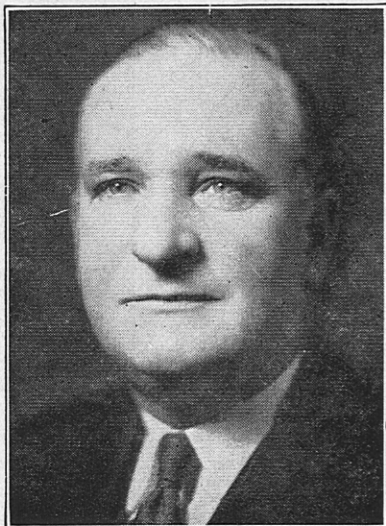
Event and Process

Easter is indeed, the world's incomparable EVENT. But it is more than that: it is also a Savior's continuing PROCESS! It is not alone the incomprehensible mystery of Jesus coming back to life from the tomb that makes us proclaim this the gladdest of all days; it is what this experience of the soul has done to all the rest of life. I cannot feel that Jesus arose just to prove His power to save Himself from dissolution: He arose because of the nature of His mission and the needs of the world! It was as if He were saying again: "I told you I came that ye might have life, even abundantly; my resurrection is part of my message; my victory over death is part of my mission; my return is part of my plan to pass on to you the gift of my spirit." It is common observation, and at times humiliating, how we think of Easter as only a grand event, kept with a burst of enthusiasm; then forthwith the celebration is over and the enthusiasm dies. It is, to be sure, the most glorious climax, and all the demonstration of beauty and praise and joy is none too much to suit the occasion. But we need to see it as a life, rather than a day; not as an event only but an eternal, sustaining process of the ever-present Lord.

Wofford C. Timmons, Director
Commission on Evangelism and Devotional Life
Congregational Christian Churches

BEHIND THE SCENES— Southeast Regional Meeting

By Jettie Logan



DR. THOS. ANDERSON

From Cleveland, Ohio to Sunny Florida was quite a contrast to some of the Southeast Convention delegates who had attended the Mid-Winter meeting. Not only the weather was different, but the meetings were too. The Southeast Regional Meeting included delegates from the Southeast Convention, the Southern Convention, the Convention of the South, the Florida Conference and also representatives from church-related colleges: within the area. All our voices were heard as we shared our mutual problems and concerns.

We (the members of my party), the Rev. Henry Weaver, Mrs. Peter Doherty and Miss Loretta Petersen) arrived at beautiful Lake Byrd Lodge, which is owned by the Florida Conference, in time to hear the Chairman, Dr. Thos. Anderson (who has been President for the past three years) call the meeting to order.

The theme of the meeting was "The Living Church." The first address, "The Church Itself," was given by Dr. Douglas Horton, Minister and Secretary of the General Council. This was followed by an address by Dr. Aurelius Pinckney, "The Church For These Times."

Organization of the Seminars followed: **Stewardship** was led by the Rev. Jesse Dollar and Dr. Nelson C. Dreier; **Evangelism** by Dr. W. Ernest Collins and Dr. Wofford C. Timmons; **Education** by Dr. William Scott, Dr. Victor Obenhaus, and Dr. Phillip M. Widenhouse.

The delegates from the Southeast Convention divided, so that some would attend each of the seminars. I attended the one on **Education**, along with Henry Weaver, Goff Bedford, John Pickens, Jr., Archie Bedford, Mrs. Thos. Anderson and Joe French. Our first session was quite a heated one, but during the discussion everyone had a chance

to air their views and the following sessions were more quiet. Ours was not the only one where voices were raised, as ever so often we would hear other voices ring out loud and long through the building! We enjoyed this part of the meeting because we could all talk when we wanted to.

As evidence of the leadership given by the Southeast Convention delegates, it may be noted that Carl Dollar and Lowell Smoot were given the responsibility of writing the report for the Stewardship Seminar while Joe French developed the report for the Seminar on Education.

After Superintendent Butterfield had seen that we all received our expense money, he called a meeting of the Southeast Convention delegates so we might work out some details of the Biennial meeting to be held in May. Rev. Slater was kept busy answering our questions as to what we pay, where we stay and where we eat. It was at this time he informed us he was a Scotsman. I believed it when we were leaving the lodge, as he came out with so many bags and clothes I thought maybe he was taking tips as the porter! (or maybe he has a lot of clothes!)

The Lodge is a beautiful spot with a lake on one side and an orange grove on the other. Every spare moment Charles Bell and Lowell Smoot were either fishing or eating oranges. They didn't catch any fish, but oh, the oranges!

The Early Birds were Loretta Petersen, Henry Weaver, Goff Bedford and John Pickens, Jr. They went swimming very, very early in the morning so they would have time to read the funnies in the morning paper.

The Chimes rang out to awake the late sleepers.



Rev. Arnold Sater and Jettie Logan



Petersen, Pickens and Bedford - reading the funnies.

Then the very nice voice of our host, Rev. John Pickens, Sr., would come to us giving the latest news and the weather report -- and also notifying Miss Petersen that the mail had arrived! It was the smiles of the Rev. and Mrs. Pickens that we enjoyed as we entered the dining room, and the food was wonderful. Before retiring each night there was always a snack in the dining room for those who were hungry.

The Chapel programs were conducted by Dr. Millard Stevens, Rev. Joseph B. Calhoun, Rev. Erston M. Butterfield and Miss Pattie Lee Coghill.

these services were the highlights of the entire program. The mixed choir will long be remembered, as they sang "Steal Away Home." The Choir was in the back of the Chapel and could not be seen. I had the feeling that this must be something like Heaven when all voices will blend together as one.

The address, "Overall Strategy for the Southeast" by Dr. Truman Douglass, Executive Vice President of the Board of Home Missions, was interesting to us all. We believe that the Southeast is really on the move and we know as Congregational Christians we too must be on the move to keep up with it.

Usually the business session is the dull part of a program, but this one was far from it. The Resolution Committee came forward with a resolution to ask The General Council to consider meeting in Atlanta in 1956, and more than an hour was spent discussing this. Dr. Douglas Horton spoke for the General Council, saying he was sure they would consider the Resolution if all the details could be worked out to the satisfaction of all concerned. The Acting Chairman, the Rev. Jesse Dollar, appointed a committee composed of the ministers in Atlanta to make the investigation. The Rev. Jesse Dollar of Virginia was elected President for next year.

We were all pleased with the excellent representation from the Southeast Convention. Those present were: the Rev. and Mrs. Archie Bedford, Rev. Arnold Slater, Rev. Bill Schorman, Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Davenport, Rev. Henry Weaver, Mrs. Peter Doherty, Rev. and Mrs. John Pickens, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Thos. Anderson, Mrs. Jettie Logan, Rev. Goff Bedford, Rev. Joe French, Rev. Charles Bell, Rev. Carl Dollar, Rev. Lowell Smoot, Miss Loretta Petersen and Superintendent Butterfield.

To All Workers for the Church Building Loan Fund

Good Friends,

What a thrilling task ours is,—gathering up building power to provide church homes for God's people of today and the tomorrows; strengthening the morale and fibre of our American way of life; making our churches strong to bear the Christian Witness to the nation and to the world; guaranteeing, so far as we are able, that our children and children's children shall have facilities for a Christian education and for a life with God in the fellowship of the Christian Community in the Church. My heart thrills within me every time I feel the pulse of this operation across the country.

You have made a splendid beginning and we are confident you will carry through to success. The organization is largely done. Goals have been suggested to the churches and some are already raised. Declarations of Purpose, pledges and cash are coming in increasingly. The outlook is good. To some of you ministers this letter will not apply, for your churches have already done the things suggested. Thanks to you and your people.

We come now to the crucial hours in this cam-

paign. We set out to do the intensive promotion by June 30, hoping that by then we would have a minimum net of \$4,500,000 in Declarations of Purpose, pledges and cash.

Now is the time for each of us, ministers and lay-workers, to take an inventory of the status of our responsibility and then to press forward along these lines.

1. Inspire and persuade each church that has not already done so to present the cause to the people, take early action, send in its Declaration of Purpose and prepare to raise its goal. The Annual Meeting is a good time to do this.

2. Begin selective promotion. Focus on situations that need special help until there is in each local church a responsible committee, pledged to act.

3. Organize for and begin the solicitation of special gifts to make sure that each church and conference goes over its goal. At all points make sure that workers are well prepared and the cause is effectively presented.

Let each of us do his very best, make each day count and God will crown our efforts with His Blessing and make 1953 a memorable New Year.

I remember you all daily in prayer and affection.

Confidently yours,

Albert D. Stauffacher, National Director

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Vol. I - No. 7

APRIL, 1953

Bouquets From Readers

"I want to congratulate you on the new format of the **Southeast News**. I think it one of the best of all of our Conference papers."

—Wesley A. Hotchkiss, Director of Research

"Hurrah! The **Southeast News** is the best it has ever been. You made a wise step when you decided to let the publishing firm in Michigan do the job."

—Rev. David W. Clark, Tallassee

"The new format for the **Southeast News** is wonderful."

—Rev. Chas. O. Erickson, Demorest

"By the way, the **Convention News** looks so much better in its new format. It will have a strong appeal to our people. I do hope that we can build the subscription list up to a respectable level for it to be useful to our church people."

—Rev. Joe A. French, Lanett

Greetings From Illinois

Paul L. Piersall, Moderator of the Wabash Association of Illinois writes, "Greetings to all our Christian friends of the Southeast. In a very real measure I feel I know you from my acquaintance with the Rev. W. C. Carpenter of Tifton, Ga. He brought pictures of his people and a recording of their good wishes for our Revival meeting in February. By this means we felt very near to you. The Rev. Carpenter endeared himself to our people here in Robinson, Ill. by his humble spirit and friendly manner. His messages were an inspiration and many of us felt a closer fellowship with the Lord because of his ministry here."

Should any of you good people come our way, be sure to look us up - we will be happy to meet the friends of Brother Carpenter."

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Apr. 2 - Maundy Thursday
- Apr. 3 - Good Friday
- Apr. 5 - Easter Sunday
- Apr. 7 - Congregational Christian Ministers meet in Wadley, Ala.
- Apr. 9 - Kentucky-Tennessee Women's Rally
- Apr. 12 - Youth Sunday
- Apr. 21 - Board of Directors meet with Nominating Committee, Atlanta, Ga.

Study Tours Through Our Area

From April 14 through April 21 two Study Tours sponsored by the Board of Home Missions will be in the Southeast Convention Area. The New England group will be led by Mrs. Marjory Martin, new Secretary of the Friendly Service, and the Mid-west group will be led by Mrs. E. E. McClintock.

The purpose of the tour is to gain first-hand information about religious, economic, educational, political, and social conditions in the south. The members of the tour are interested in being better informed on our area, and are eager to strengthen the bonds of fellowship, meet needs more adequately, and strengthen the total program which is made possible through Our Christian World Mission.

Advance - Special Offer

According to Mrs. Pearl S. Hemingway, new director of promotion for **Advance**, it is felt that new church families will develop a more "satisfying and effective churchmanship through reading **Advance**. It helps them to a greater understanding of Congregationalism and the role of the local church in **Our Christian World Mission**.

Advance is therefore making a special Lenten offer, which will close April 15, whereby each new family or individual joining your church can now receive a year's subscription to **Advance** for only \$2.00 as a gift from your church. Upon receiving the names and addresses of your new members **Advance** will send you gift cards to sign and forward to the new subscribers.

The Roll of Honor

Churches Who Have Sent In Declarations Of Purpose

Demorest, Federated	\$ 382.00
Wadley, Cong'l	200.00
Tallassee, Mt. Olive	200.00
Atlanta, Central	1000.00
East Tallassee, Liberty	320.00
Alexander City, Antioch	10.00
Andalusia, Antioch	300.00
Langdale, Christian	1600.00
Seman, Balm of Gilead	40.00
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	2414.00

HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

"Speaking of religious living," said the cynic, when all is said and done, more is said than done."

SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE

Hello there!

I have just returned from a visit to the North Georgia Parish. Did you know that it's 210 miles from Macedonia to Liberty to Sardis to Duncan's Creek? Well, it is. Dr. Percy, serving the first two churches, Mr. McAdams, who preaches at the other two, John Davenport of Macedonia, layman, and I made the trip together. The Liberty folks had a fellowship meal at noon and we had a brief service before going on to Sardis. Tonight, the Interchurch Council met at Macedonia to make some long range plans looking forward to a program of progress in every phase of the work among the four churches. The attendance was good, the spirit excellent, the enthusiasm high and the future looks bright!

So it's been another good day at work among our churches. I would covet for all of you the chance and realize the deep consecration of our people as they go forward, increasing in faith, using aright their freedom and enjoying the rich fellowship which is the distinguishing feature of our Congregational Christian Churches. Since January 1st it has been my privilege to visit thirty-two of our churches, and all that I have seen and heard has made me glad that I came South to serve with you.

Say, did your church get in on one of those area meetings for the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign? We certainly owe Dr. Nelson Dreier, Area Director; Lowell Smoot, Convention Chairman; and Carl Dollar of the Convention Staff a big vote of thanks for their time and efforts. I'm only sorry that I couldn't arrange my schedule to take in all of those meetings too. I missed a lot of good fellowship too—knowing Dr. Dreier and Lowell and Carl, they must have had a wonderful time driving those eight days! Already their work is bearing fruit. To date 10 churches have accepted their goals and sent to New York their Declarations of Purpose. Is your church on the **Roll of Honor** printed in this issue? I hope it is, but if not, find out what your folks are planning to do and when. If you need help, don't hesitate to call on your Association, Conference or Convention Chairmen of the Church Building Loan Fund for assistance. They have all the facts, booklets, movies, stories, etc. and will be most happy to help you in getting your church to accept its goal and then to raise it during these next two years.

This is the first great venture we've launched together and if we all do our best we will go "over the top." What a thrill it would be if, at the Convention Meeting in May, we could announce that every church has accepted its goal and sent in its Declaration of Purpose. Won't you please help to give us all that wonderful thrill of a job well done?

Before I "hang up" I must tell you how happy we all are over the checks that are coming in for the One Great Hour of Sharing. Mrs. Albright informs me that already the amount has reached \$356.33 and every mail brings more evidence of



ERSTON M. BUTTERFIELD

the concern we have for those who are in need and are calling to us for help. In the Master's name we are reaching out in loving kindness to our less fortunate brothers everywhere. As He loved we want to love - as He gave, so we would give - as He served, we too would serve. That is Our Christian World Mission. And it is always true, strange as it may seem, that the more we give to the Mission of the Church in the uttermost ends of the earth, the more we have to do a better job in our home communities. If your church hasn't discovered that great religious truth yet, just put it to the test and see!

Well, I've talked on enough. Keep up the good work and more power to you. See you at Chattanooga in May, if not before.

Bye,

Erston M. Butterfield

A CHILD'S PRAYER

Now I lay me down to sleep;
I pray Thee, Lord, the souls to keep
Of other children, far away,
Who have no homes in which to stay,
Nor know where is their daily bread
Nor where at night to lay their head,
But wander through a broken land,
Alone and helpless—Take their hand.

Amen

SPECIAL BIENNIAL MEETING ISSUE

The May issue of the SOUTHEAST NEWS will be a special Convention edition, and will have general information of interest to all of you whether or not you plan to attend.

A tentative program is included in this issue (see page 12). Programs and full information for delegates will be going out in the mail very soon - watch for this!

Save the dates and plan now to attend this great and important meeting!

Church News



J. D. McGill and J. P. Veasey accept church deed from Paul Fullwood and Rev. John Wilson, Methodist pastor.

The **Tifton Congregational Christian Church** held its first services in the recently purchased church on March 8 and the church again resumed its part in the religious life of the community.

The members of the Tifton Church, 26 strong, completed arrangements for the purchase of the 350 capacity building for \$20,000 on March 6, paying \$10,000 on the building with notes for the remainder.

The membership plans to call a pastor soon, but in the meantime the Rev. J. A. Rountree, a retired Methodist minister, is acting as supply pastor.

The Board of Trustees consists of Messrs. J. P. Veasey, John D. McGill and J. T. Gill. Mrs. J. T. Gill is clerk, Mrs. Marvin McGill is secretary-treasurer, and J. P. Veasey is Sunday School Superintendent.

On March 22 Superintendent Butterfield was the guest pastor and officiated at the Open House and Consecration Service. Local ministers who took part in the service were: John E. Wilson, First Methodist Church; John M. McGinnis, First Baptist Church; John Howard, First Presbyterian Church; and W. C. Carpenter, pastor of the Douglas and Richland Congregational Christian Churches.

On the first Sunday in March the Baker, Good Hope Church was honored to have with us, during all our week-end services, the Rev. Samuel Long of Midland City, Ala., the father of the Rev. N. A. Long, our pastor. He gave an inspiring sermon following our Christian Endeavor meeting on Sunday night.

A special offering which included the regular Sunday School offering was contributed to the 1953 One Great Hour of Sharing.

—Ida Mae Gunter

At a recent special business meeting of the Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, three important matters were given careful consideration. The Church Building Fund goal of \$2400 was accepted and an organization authorized to make the necessary solicitation; also a payment on the grant mortgage was planned prior to the building fund campaign. Preliminary steps were taken looking forward to the Biennial Meeting of the Southeast Convention in Chattanooga May 16-17. A committee was charged with the responsibility of suggesting to the Church at its annual meeting in April the integrated needs of the various departments as related to the contemplated expansion of the church building.

Pilgrim Church looks forward to its Annual Meeting in anticipation of excellent reports from all departments, a marked increase in membership and average attendance and a most wholesome financial status following several improvements to the building and equipment. The church has never been in as good over-all condition during the experience of the clerk as a member for over twenty-seven years.

—Emerson P. Poste

The members of the **Thorsby, United Church** have worked out a plan whereby parents with young children may come to church regularly without anxiety that their babies will interfere with the services. Each Sunday a capable person is left in charge of a play-room in the rear of the church - a different person each Sunday, so that no one need miss all the fine sermons we have.

The older children remain in the sanctuary for their own little sermon, or "Children's Story," which the Rev. Welch has for them each Sunday. Then they may either leave quietly and go to the play-room or stay for the regular sermon. We are happy to report that most of them stay for the complete service.

—Emily W. Harding

The **Williams Chapel Church** of Waycross is making plans for their 20th Anniversary program. After the regular Sunday School and Morning Worship, a dinner on the grounds will be served. In the afternoon a short history of the church will be given and there will be special vocal numbers and singing by all present. Special anniversary programs are also planned for the Pilgrim Fellowship meeting that evening and the Evening Worship period.

Mrs. C. H. Griffin

Dr. Wofford C. Timmons held a "Preaching Mission" in the **Charleston Circular Church** from Ash Wednesday through Sunday and initiated a program of lay evangelism.

Miss Agnes Kessler was recently honored at a dinner for her twenty-five years of service as the Church Clerk.

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Bender, formerly of the Central Church of Atlanta, are now members

of the Circular Church and giving valuable service to the church with their lovely voices and Christian enthusiasm. Eight new members have been received into the church since January 1st.

—Archie Burns Bedford, pastor

The **ChIPLEY Oak Grove Church** has recently installed a Hammond organ, which contributes a great deal to the program of the church.

On March 15 Herman Cook, of Lanett, was a guest at the Men's Coffee Hour, and was the speaker at the church service which followed.

The church members and community were saddened by the death of Roy Cadenhead, who was Superintendent of the Sunday School, a member of the Board of Trustees, sang in the choir and was also a Master Mason.

The **United Church of LaGrange** was privileged to have our new Superintendent, the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, preach the morning sermon on March 1. The Rev. Butterfield, who won the hearts of everyone with his genuine interest, friendly smile, warm handshake and Christian attitude, was honor guest at the church dinner arranged by the church so that he might meet and become better acquainted with the church members.

February 27 was set aside as "clean up day" at the church and all members met for a general housecleaning. The class rooms of the junior department are soon to undergo a complete redecorating as a project of the women's and men's fellowships of the church.

An increase in attendance at the morning worship service has been noted, with an average of 115 for the past four Sundays. We feel that the church is growing steadily, and with God's help will continue to grow.

Our pastor, the Rev. John E. Pickens, Jr., has made a definite contribution throughout the city and county since coming to LaGrange, having been invited to speak to the civic clubs and various social and religious organizations. His most recent address was made March 13 to the student body of the Hogansville High School.

—Mrs. John Laubenthal

On March 15 the **Langdale Church** conducted an Every Member Visit. Its purpose was to bring each church member up to date on the conditions in the church since last October. The technique was the same as that of the Every Member Canvass except that no money was requested. A training session was held before the canvass and the men were sent out in teams. It was hoped that these visits would acquaint the members who are not generally included in the official meetings with the needs of the church. Several non member families were also contacted in the hope that it would make them feel closer to the church.

These visits gave the church an opportunity to prove to people that the church was interested in them even when it was not looking for money. We hope it will bring a few inactive members back into the church.

The **Langdale Church** wishes to congratulate the **Tifton Church** on the purchase of their new building. We feel the members have gone a long way towards the building of a great South Georgia Church.

A three-day revival preceding Easter was held. Services began on Thursday night and on Saturday night a candle-light Communion and Rededication Service was held. A Sunrise Service has been planned for Easter Morning, with the regular Easter Service to be held at the usual time.

The church is very proud of its choir. The Choir consist of about thirty voices, under the direction of Howard Morris. This group not only sings each Sunday morning but also carries out an extensive musical education program.

—A Goff Bedford, pastor

On February 22 the **Columbus, North Highland Church** was host to the Church Building Loan Fund team for a luncheon meeting. Dr. Nelson Drier, Area Director, gave a very interesting and inspirational message, and the Rev. Lowell Smoot, Convention Chairman, also took part in the presentation of the loan fund campaign.

About fifty delegates representing seven churches, including the host church, were present: Columbus, United; Chipley, Oak Grove; Phenix City, United; Langdale; Lanett; and West Point, Highway. All ministers of these churches were also present.

There was a splendid response to the goals and two churches, Phenix City and North Highland, favored an increase in their goals.

The pastor of the **North Highland Church**, the Rev. Peter Doherty, has been giving a series of sermons on the meaning of stewardship. The Rev. C. Carl Dollar preached at the morning and evening services on March 8 and also trained the canvassers for the Every Member Canvass which was completed on March 22nd.

Under the leadership of the Rev. E. S. Fetner, the **Shawmut Todd Church** is working towards a new church building.

The church attendance is steadily increasing and the general church budget and financing is better.

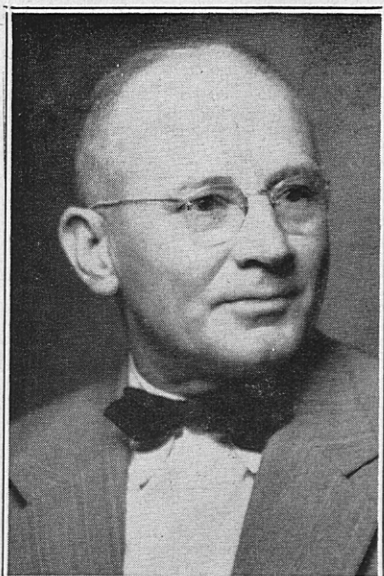
Both the Women's Missionary organization and the Men's Club of the church are rendering very effective service. They have contributed much toward the success of the church's building fund.

—Mrs. Tommie Gray

The repairing and redecorating of the interior of the **Electric Union Church**, which was begun in February, has been completed - with the help of God and the cooperation of the members who did most of the work themselves. The church now has a new floor with Celetex walls and ceiling.

In the near future asbestos shingles will be put on the exterior.

Sunday School is now held every Sunday and prayer meeting every Saturday night. We feel



REV. E. S. FETNER

that the weekly prayer meetings have resulted in much spiritual growth for the church membership.

—Mrs. Lillie Mae Price

The Sunday School rooms of the **Atlanta, Center Church** have been remodeled and redecorated, and an asphalt tile floor has been laid in the assembly room and kitchen. The addition of an inside stairway is under construction.

Under the leadership of the pastor, the Rev. Henry C. Weaver, a series of Workshop Sessions on Sunday School materials and methods is being planned for the week-end of April 12. Three one-hour sessions will be held on Saturday afternoon, and two sessions on Sunday afternoon. Subjects to be discussed are How to enlist and train teachers, Improving the curriculum, Increasing Attendance, and Creative Worship.

A similar Institute is planned for the week-end of April 26 for all officers of the church, and there will be one-hour training sessions each for deacons, trustees, educational committee and ushers in their responsibilities and privileges.

To The Laymen of the Southeast Convention:

Greetings: The meeting of the year for laymen is our second **Retreat** at Southern Union College, Wadley, Alabama on June 5-7. Mark the date as a "must" and attend to become a better trained layman.

We will follow the theme "Your Other Vocation" with outstanding leaders: Erston Butterfield, our Superintendent; Logan Weston, Major U.S. Army; Van B. Taunton, Lay Leader of the North Alabama Methodists; and others. We will Worship, Study, enjoy Fellowship and have Communion together. There will be time for recreation and rest.

The cost will be just \$10, which will include

everything. Plan now to attend. Additional information may be secured by writing me at 1102 First Street, Lanett, Alabama.

Most cordially,
Herman D. Cook,
National Committeeman

At the last meeting of the Laymen's Fellowship of the **Andalusia First Church**, Comer Corbitt was the guest speaker. He gave an interesting talk on Church Membership and brought out briefly several good points or suggestions as to a church member's duties or obligations to his church.

After the talk by Mr. Corbitt, we had a short business session and voted for our Mr. Blackmon to place an order for ten signs to be painted and placed at intersections in Andalusia showing the location of the church.

—Alfred E. Adams

The Men's Fellowship of the **LaGrange United Church** now totals 34, and is doing fine, constructive work for the church and the community. There is an average attendance of 26, and the group is planning a number of worthwhile projects under the leadership of the president, Carl Benefield.

—Mrs. John Laubenthal

The Men's Club of the **Langdale Church** held a Singing Concert on March 28. Several quartets were invited from surrounding churches and civic groups. The proceeds of the concert were allocated to the Men's Club expenses and to the Church Building Fund.

—A. Goff Bedford, pastor

Fraternal Relationships Discussed

In the second quarterly meeting of this conference year of the officers and committees of the East Alabama Association at Lanett on March 17, the most stimulating discussion was on the topic of fraternal relationships with churches of similar polity and practice to that of our own.

A motion to have a committee to explore the opportunities of fellowship with other churches resulted in the appointment of the Reverends Goff Bedford, John D. Dollar and Carl Dollar on this committee.

Pleasant Grove Church was granted an appropriation of \$200 from the Association funds to apply on their new church building.

Plans are under way for the purchase of a set of the Minister's Course of Study text books to be made available for use of anyone who wants them for study from Southern Union College Library. The college library will also make available a list of books which can be borrowed.

Several other matters of routine business were taken care of during the meeting.

—Rev. Joe A. French

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

The Ladies' Guild of the **Waycross, William Chapel Church** meets once each month for their regular meeting. We also meet quite often for a work day, at which time we pack clothing to be sent to Ellis Island or the Delmo Project and to quilt.

On her birthday and anniversary, each member gives a penny for each year she has lived and each year she has been married.

—Mrs. C. H. Griffin

The February meeting of the Women's Fellowship Circle of the **Tallassee, Mt. Olive Church** was held at the home of Mrs. M. O. Worley.

Mrs. Leon Gleaton was in charge of the program and gave a very interesting report on the book, "Accent on Liberty." A business session followed and the ladies voted to sponsor a Stanley Party to help raise funds for our circle.

The Valentine Spirit was brought out in the refreshments of heart-shaped cookies and sandwiches, and valentines were used for place cards.

We were pleased to welcome a visitor, Mrs. Roy Rigsby. The groups was dismissed with a prayer by the pastor, the Rev. M. O. Worley.

—Mrs. Elmer Jones

The Women's Fellowship of **Corbin Pilgrim Church** met February 14 in the Fellowship Room. The Rev. Charles Drake spoke on "The Congregational-Christian Church at Work in Africa." Pictures taken by Helen Disney in Rhodesia and jewelry, wood carving, and red mates made by the natives were displayed. Mr. Drake said that it had been a little over a century ago that the movement to plant the Christian Church in Africa was begun. There have been more converts in Africa than in all other non-Christian areas combined, he stated.

Three books were suggested for further reading by the Rev. Drake, namely "Cry, the Beloved Country," "Africans on Safari," and "African Heritage." In conclusion he stated that our belief is that Africa can come to its own destiny by the training of native teachers, doctors and preachers.

The Friendship Apron was turned in by Miss Edna Smith, and it was voted that the proceeds from it should be used as payment on the church organ.

The group voted to send bedding to Piedmont College. Woman's Gift boxes were dedicated; they will be presented at the Spring Rally on April 9.

Miss Hazel McPherson, hostess, served sacrificial refreshments to those present. A silver cross made up of quarters was designated for mission use in Korea.

On February 16 the ladies of the **Andalusia First Church** held their regular meeting and dedicated the Woman's Gift in a well-planned program led by Mrs. Nelson.

On February 17 six of our ladies met with the Antioch ladies and enjoyed a very inspirational program, after which they dedicated their Woman's Gift. Miss Loretta Petersen was the guest and gave an interesting talk.

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP—

On March 9th the Christian Endeavor of the **Andalusia, First Church** gave a "Hot Dog and Pie" supper in the basement of the church. The menu also included hamburgers and soft drinks or coffee. There was a good crowd present, as there usually is when food is mentioned in the invitation!

Proceeds from the supper were used to finish paying for the new shrubbery around the church.

—Alfred E. Adams

The Pilgrim Fellowship of the **LaGrange United Church** is one of the most active organizations of the church. There is an average attendance of eighteen young people each Sunday evening, under the leadership of Harrell Hardy, president. Many activities have been planned for the near future.

This group is giving its support to the pastor and the church by remaining for the evening church service. They had full charge of conducting the evening worship service while our pastor was in Florida attending the regional meeting recently.

A Junior Pilgrim Fellowship is in the process of organization, and we're expecting this group to grow as rapidly as the senior group.

—Mrs. John Laubenthal

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Missionary Speaker From India

"To share in the task of educating the girls of India for participation in the great experiment in democracy which is facing that country has been a gratifying thing," says Mrs. Mildred H. Hess, American Congregational Christian Educator from Madura, India, who spoke at the women's Spring Rallies in Georgia during March. The women found her both interesting and inspirational.

Since 1915 when Mrs. Hess went to India first with her husband, Rev. James Milton Hess, Head of the English Department at American College in Madura, she has had close contacts with the Indian students and with Indian youth both inside and outside collegiate walls.

Herself a teacher at American College, founded under the American Board in 1882, Mrs. Hess specialized in social ethics and religious education. She also, at varying periods, taught Physical Education, library work and English.

At present Professor and Mrs. Hess are serving at Elon College, Elon, North Carolina, during their pre-retirement furlough.

Delicious refreshments were served and the fellowship together was enjoyed by everyone.

—Alfred E. Adams

Mrs. J. Madison Trosper, widow of the late Rev. Trosper who was pastor of the Corbin Pilgrim Church for many years, left March 14 for the Masonic Home in Louisville, Ky.

All her many friends wish her happiness in her new home and plan to remember her with cards and letters.

—Mrs. Edward Cummins

College Sunday - April 19th

Our church-related colleges are in a time of crisis. They are so absorbed by their desperate struggle for survival that they are not always able to make a crystal clear demonstration of why they must survive. They are in competition with large, tax-supported universities which offer free or low tuition, universities which are giant industries engaged in assembly line mass production of educated people, sometimes superficially educated people. The best defense of these colleges is to be frankly Christian, but they need the searching mind and the strong arm and the open hand of the church, too.

Dr. Harry T. Stock, Secretary
Christian Education Division

Our Church-Related Colleges

I spend a large part of my time speaking in churches and to church groups, enlisting support for Southern Union. As I go about my work, I keep asking myself: "What does Southern Union, or any church-related college, have to offer young people that cannot be found in a state-supported or secular institution?"

It seems to me that the Christian institution should differ from these in three important areas:

1) Member of the Board of Trustees, which formulated the policies of the school, should be Christian. In the case of the church-related institution, the majority should be members of the supporting church. In our own case at Southern Union, we are revising our by-laws to provide that half our members will be chosen by recommendation of the Southeast Convention.

2) The faculty should be Christian. A church-related school cannot select its faculty members on the basis of academic achievement alone as a state-supported institution does. It must seek instructors who also have a deep Christian faith. This does not mean that all would necessarily agree on particulars, but all should be guided by the fundamental Christian principles. For good or bad, the teacher's life has a more lasting influence on the student than the subject matter he teaches - history, mathematics or English.

3) The program of the school should have a religious emphasis. It should help the students develop a mature Christian faith. It seems to me that this is hard to do without a systematic study of the Bible as a course requirement, taught on the same level with mathematics and English. Like our denomination, with its insistence on freedom of thought, Southern Union makes no attempt to proselyte its students. The faculty members do not impose their beliefs on the students, but help them to work out faiths of their own.

As a Congregational Christian school, we feel particular responsibility to the church whose name we carry. To meet this responsibility, we hold extension classes for ministers and church workers, cooperate in the ministerial training program, and offer our facilities for the use of church conferences.

To carry on its work, a church-related college must depend upon members of its denomination for support. Its financial assistance must come

SOUTHERN UNION COLLEGE

President Clyde C. Flannery took four students, Wallace Harris, Richard Rider, Elizabeth Van Cleave, and Florine Rollins - on a speaking trip through Tennessee and Kentucky March 13-16. The group presented a program at Robbins, Tenn., Evarts, Ky., and assisted with the worship service in the Evarts Church on Sunday morning. Several prospective students were contacted.

The Alabama-Georgia Laymen's Fellowship met at the college dining room for its annual Ladies' Night Banquet on February 28th. Odell Yancey, Langdale, president of the fellowship, presided at the meeting. Dr. Nelson Dreier presented a very challenging talk on church building needs.

The college will begin an Extension School at Lanett, Ala., on April 10. Two 1½ hour sessions will be held each Friday evening for six weeks. The first session will begin at 7:00 P.M. (EST), the second at 8:30. The following classes will be offered: General Psychology, Christian Doctrine, Church Administration, New Testament, Marriage and Family, Church History, Church Administration, and The Art of Public Worship. The school is open to anyone interested in additional education. Registration blanks may be secured from the Valley ministers by writing to Rev. Joe A. French, 516 Eighth Street South, Lanett, Ala., director of the school.

The Executive Committee of the faculty has approved the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee to give labor credit for Glee Club and Basketball next year. It was felt by the committee that both activities are a service to the college program. The committee also voted to give tuition scholarships to ministerial students, special consideration to children of ministers, and scholarship aid to high school graduates meeting certain qualifications.

The Mid-West Study Tour will visit the campus on Tuesday, April 14th, arriving in time for the noon meal. A seminar is planned for the early afternoon. The New England Tour will come April 15th, and will spend the night with us. We are looking forward to the visit of both groups.

DO YOU WANT TO BORROW A BOOK? DO YOU NEED TO CONTINUE YOUR STUDY FOR ORDINATION? Then write to the Southern Union College Library, stating the book or books you would like to borrow and they will be sent you by return mail. All you will have to pay is the return postage. Books for the Ministerial Training Course for Alabama ministers can be secured at the College.

Mr. J. J. "Dad" Carter, one of the early trustees of Southern Union, passed away March 6th. He was a devoted and loyal friend of the school all his life.

from the denomination if it is to remain truly "church-related." And members of the denomination must believe in it enough to send their sons and daughters there.

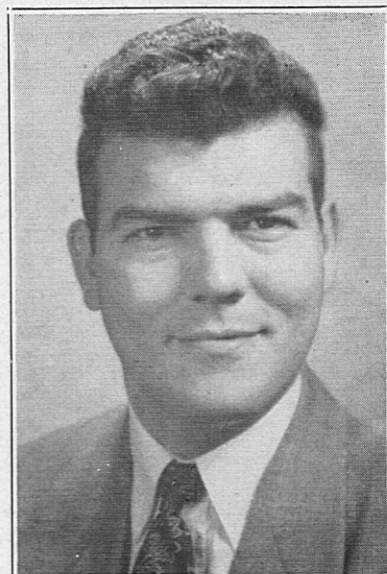
—Clyde C. Flannery, President
SOUTHERN UNION COLLEGE

MEDITATIONS FROM MINISTERS

Job 19:1-25 and Romans 8:18-25

Faith and Hope

By CHARLES O. ERICKSON



THE REV. CHAS. O. ERICKSON

In the 19th chapter of Job we have a description of a man who is about as bad off as one can get. Job feels let down by his friends and the whole world. He cries out when he is wronged and nobody comes to his aid. He points to evil, but he gets no justice. And to top it off, the people of his own household lose their respect and concern for him. Every detail of his hope is gone and in summary he says that his hope is pulled up like a tree.

In the 8th chapter of his letter to the Romans, Paul expresses a similar despair. He speaks of the sufferings of this present time and says that the whole creation is groaning in travail. We know, in life and in literature, how real despair is. But we may not know how to go through despair to a victory of hope as Job and Paul did.

We need to grow in spirit to see that any honest hope is coupled with a recognition of despair. There is a message of hope in beautiful sunsets, but the most beautiful sunsets come when the air is filled with the dust of wind erosion or the smoke of tragic forest fires. We have not found the true message of hope in any beauty until we realize that both beauty and hope are bought at a price. Nowhere is this mixture of hope and despair more clearly seen than in the basic facts of Christianity. It reaches its climax in the Easter Story.

How shall we find hope in the midst of despair? Job and Paul both found hope only because they had faith. Job's expression of hope founded on faith is that: "I know that my Redeemer lives (faith), and at last he will stand upon the earth. (hope)" Paul tells us that faith is a prelude to hope in these words: "We ourselves who have the first fruits of the Spirit (faith), groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies (hope)." We wait for our Redeemer to stand on earth and for the redemption of our bodies. Christian hope is the expectation that the fruits of faith will come into our lives on earth. Souls are saved through faith, and then we grow in grace to lives saved through hope. We need redeemed living.

But we dare not place our hope where we ought to place our faith. People get married in faith that two can work out life together and in hope that there is some eternal rightness about it. What they should do is to marry in faith that

there is something right about marriage and then work out the hope that "we two" can attain this rightness.

In political life, we put our faith in some party and hope there is some way this party can solve the problems of government. We ought to have faith in our way of government and hope in some particular party. Political discussions are often bitter because each person is campaigning for his basic faith instead of his hope. Democratic freedom requires a framework of a common faith within which there are lively disagreements about hopes.

In religion, we put our faith in one church or theological viewpoint, and then hope we can find God. Obviously, we ought to put our faith in God and then work that faith out in the hopes of some specific church or theology. There are many explanations of the work and presence of God, but if our faith lies in one of these explanations rather than in God Himself, we shall think we have the only hope of the world.

The simple conclusion is to recognize that faith belongs to the heart and hope to the mind. Christians everywhere are given the same faith in God by the Holy Spirit. We express our hopes differently in creeds, doctrines, and other words of the mind. We always have the despair of some failure of hope as these words change or clash. Instead of despair, we shall have a fight to the death if we let these hopes masquerade as faith. It is the joy of our hearts that we have faith in nothing less than God. With this faith, life is a continual challenge and opportunity to the mind to build a hope in the midst of the trial and despair that is normal in life.

So it is that the Cross without the Resurrection is a hopeless despair, and the Resurrection without the Cross is a mere dreamer's hope!

NOTE: The Rev. Charles O. Erickson is the pastor of the Federated Church, Demorest, Ga.

Tentative Program

Southeast Convention
Pilgrim Congregational Church

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

May 16 and 17, 1953

Theme: "We Would Be Building"

Saturday, May 16

9:30 A. M.—Registration and Fellowship
10:15 A. M.—Worship conducted by Chaplain
10:30 A. M.—Call to Order by the Moderator, the Rev. Joe A. French
Welcome by the Host Pastor, the Rev. Arnold Slater
Appointment of Committees
Adoption of Agenda
Presentation and election of Corresponding Members
10:45 A. M.—"We Would Be Building" - Keynote Address, Dr. Thos. A. Tripp
11:00 A. M.—Business Session - Presentation of Printed Reports
The Board of Directors
The Convention Superintendent
The Director of the Christian Rural Extension Service
The Women's Fellowship
The Laymen's Fellowship
The Pilgrim Fellowship
The Treasurer's Report
The Church Loan Fund Committee
The Southeast Regional Meeting
11:45 A. M.—Moments with the Chaplain
12:00 —Recess for Lunch
1:30 P. M.—Moments with the Chaplain

1:45 P. M.—Business Session
Recommendations from the Board of Directors
Proposed Constitutional Revision - Presentation and Discussion
3:00 P. M.—Seminar Sessions - "Teach Us to Build Temples Still Undone"
Women's Fellowship - Convenor, Mrs. T. L. Cunningham
Laymen's Fellowship - Convenor, Herman D. Cook
Pilgrim Fellowship - Convenor, Millard Fuller
Ministerial Fellowship - Convenor, Allen K. Wadleigh
(Our Guests from the General Council and National Staff will serve as Resource Leaders)
4:45 P. M.—Recess
6:00 P. M.—The Convention Banquet - "We Are Building in the Southeast"
7:30 P. M.—Evening Program
Worship conducted by the Chaplain
Address by the Moderator of the General Council, Dr. Robert Cashman, "Dynamic Churchmanship"
Preview of new Stewardship Film, "The Hidden Heart"

Sunday, May 17

9:30 A. M.—Business Session
10:30 A. M.—Reports from the Seminars and Other Business
11:00 A. M.—Morning Worship led by the Host Pastor, the Rev. Arnold Slater
12:15 —Luncheon

1:30 P. M.—The Service of Dedication: Installation of Superintendent Butterfield and new officers of the Convention by Committee: Dr. Robert Cashman, Dr. Thos. A. Tripp, and Dr. David W. Shepherd
3:00 P. M.—Adjournment